

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-04 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-05

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01 SAM-01

OES-02 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-01 DLOS-03 /076 W

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R 111700Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6805

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG ES

SUBJ: PETROLEUM EXPLORATION IN EL SALVADOR

REF: SAN SALVADOR 3985

DEPT ALSO PASS COMMERCE

1. THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT WILL OFFICIALLY OPEN A CALL FOR OFFERS TO EXPLORE FOR OFF-SHORE PETROLEUM ON NOVEMBER 14. PROPOSALS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR 50 DAYS THEREAFTER OR UNTILL JANUARY 3, 1975. EITHER AT THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY OR AT SALVADORAN EMBASSIES OR CAREER CONSULATES ABROAD. THE PETROLEUM COMMITTEE OF THE MINISTRY HAS BEEN INFORMALLY DELIVERING INSTRUCTIONS ON THE PREPARATION OF PROPOSALS TO INTERESTED PARTIES. THUS FAR, THESE HAVE BEEN PRIMARILY U.S. FIRMS INCLUDING TEXACO, OCEANIC EXPLORATION, TEXAS PETROLEUM, SIGNAL OIL, ARCO, READING AND BATES, AND A CONOCO-LED CONSORTIUM WHICH INCLUDES LONE STAR GAS AND FLUOR CORP. WE EXPECT OTHER U.S. FIRMS WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE. MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE INSINUATED

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THAT INQUIRIES HAVE ALSO BEEN RECEIVED FROM BRITISH AND ROMANIAN

FIRMS AND THAT ROMANIAN INTEREST IS PARTICULARLY STRONG.

2. A COPY OF THE PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS HAS BEEN SENT TO ARA/CEN/ES AND ONE RETAINED IN THE EMBASSY. THE AREA IN QUESTION COVERS THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE SALVADORAN COAST AND EXTENDS ABOUT 50 MILES OFFSHORE. THE ONE AREA WHICH MAY CAUSE PROBLEMS IS THAT WHICH EXTENDS FROM THE MOUTH OF THE GULF OF FONSECA WHERE CONFLICTING SALVADORAN AND HONDURAN TERRITORIAL CLAIMS EXIST. GOES MINISTER OF ECONOMY HIDALGO QUEHL TOLD EMBOFF NOVEMBER 8 OIL HAS BEEN FOUND IN NICARAGUA'S PACIFIC COAST IN COMMERCIAL QUANTITIES. IT IS THEREFORE POSSIBLE HONDURAN INTEREST IN THE DISPUTED GULF OF FONSECA BORDER AREA WILL INCREASE CONSIDERABLY. CAMPBELL

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Message Attributes

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